

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082496
ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00
H-02 L-03 COME-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
JUSE-00 PRS-01 PA-02 USIE-00 /071 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:JLCOBERT/OES/OFA:LNSCHOWENGREDT:DKM
APPROVED BY EUR :JAARMITAGE
D:WCHRISTOPHER
S/S:MR. BRIDGES
EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

-----130229Z 046946 /70

O 130100Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 082496

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET FISHERIES VIOLATIONS

REF: STATE 76303, STATE 80422, STATE 80435

FOLLOWING IS TO BRIEF EMBASSY ON DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING
VIOLATIONS SINCE APRIL 6.

1. TARAS SHEVCHENKO

ON APRIL 9, THIS VESSEL WAS BOARDED BY THE COAST GUARD
ABOUT 120 MILES SOUTHEAST OF NANTUCKET. THE VESSEL HAD
BEEN ENGAGED IN A FISHERY FOR HAKE PURSUANT TO A PERMIT
ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES. THE VESSEL WAS FOUND TO
HAVE ON BOARD MORE RIVER HERRING THAN MAY BE RETAINED,
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PAGE 02 STATE 082496

UNDER THE APPLICABLE FOREIGN FISHING REGULATIONS. AT THE
TIME OF THE BOARDING, FOUR METRIC TONS OF RIVER HERRING
WERE FOUND WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN AS AN INCIDENTAL CATCH
IN THE COURSE OF THE HAKE FISHERY. THE REGULATIONS LIMIT
SUCH INCIDENTAL CATCH TO TWO AND ONE-HALF METRIC TONS
OR ONE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL FISH ON BOARD. THE VESSEL'S
RECORDS SHOW THAT DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 4 TO

APRIL 9 ABOUT 50 METRIC TONS OF RIVER HERRING HAD BEEN CAUGHT AND PROCESSED, A SERIOUS VIOLATION. THE VESSEL

WAS SEIZED BY THE COAST GUARD CUTTER DECISIVE EARLY IN THE MORNING OF SUNDAY, APRIL 10, AND ARRIVED AT THE PORT OF BOSTON MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 11. THE USUAL PROCEDURE, INCLUDING INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION AND WHITE HOUSE CONCURRENCE WAS FOLLOWED PRIOR TO SEIZURE. THE US ATTORNEY FOR THE BOSTON AREA WILL PROSECUTE THE CASE IN US DISTRICT COURT.

2. ANTANAS SNECHKUS

ON APRIL 10, THIS VESSEL WAS BOARDED BY THE COAST GUARD ABOUT 130 MILES SOUTHEAST OF NANTUCKET. THE VESSEL IS A REFRIGERATED CARGO VESSEL, AUTHORIZED BY PERMIT TO TRANSPORT PROCESSED FISH AND SUPPLIES TO AND FROM THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET. UPON INSPECTION, THE VESSEL WAS FOUND TO HAVE ON BOARD QUANTITIES OF RED FISH AND COD, BOTH OF WHICH ARE PROHIBITED SPECIES UNDER US LAW, AND RIVER HERRING IN QUANTITIES ABOVE THAT ALLOWED UNDER THE LAW AND APPLICABLE REGULATIONS. THE ILLEGALLY RETAINED FISH WERE SEIZED BY THE COAST GUARD EARLY MONDAY, APRIL 11, AND THE VESSEL WAS ORDERED INTO THE PORT OF BOSTON TO OFFLOAD THE SEIZED FISH. IN CARRYING OUT THE INSPECTION OF THE VESSEL AND ITS RECORDS, OTHER QUESTIONS HAVE ARISEN REGARDING THE FISH ON BOARD AND THE VESSEL'S LOGS AND RECORDS. AN INVESTIGATION INTO THESE MATTERS IS CONTINUING.

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PAGE 03 STATE 082496

3. ON APRIL 11, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CALLED IN VASEV OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY TO DISCUSS VIOLATIONS. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON THE MEETING:

Q. WHEN WILL THE DEPARTMENT MAKE KNOWN TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY THE UNITED STATES' CONCERN OVER FISHING VIOLATIONS BY SOVIET VESSELS?

A. SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER VLADILLEN M. VASEV WAS CALLED IN BY DEPUTY SECRETARY WARREN CHRISTOPHER AT 3:00 THIS AFTERNOON. MR. CHRISTOPHER NOTED THE RECURRING INCIDENTS INVOLVING SOVIET FISHING VESSELS AND REITERATED THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED LAST WEEK OVER THE CONTINUED PATTERN OF VIOLATIONS OF THE US FISHERIES LAWS. HE URGED THAT EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES BE TAKEN BY THE SOVIETS TO ENSURE THAT THE VIOLATIONS CEASE SO THAT THIS SITUATION WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A WORSENING OF OUR BILATERAL

RELATIONS.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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